Expansion plans are being drawn for providing telephone connections in the State of Madhya Pradesh complying the above objectives. It is proposed to substantially reduce the waiting list as indicated above by end of the 8th Plan at Jabalpur and also in Madhya Pradesh.

Celebration of World Heritage Week

*228. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether World Heritage was celebrated at Aurangabad in November, 1991;

(b) if so, the objectives for such celebration;

(c) whether such Heritage weeks are proposed to be celebrated in future at different places in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) The World Heritage Week was celebrated at Ajanta and Ellora Caves located in District Aurangabad, Maharashtra from 19th to 25th November, 1991.

(b) The main objectives of the celebrations were to seek cooperation of the general public and to create awareness among the people in the preservation of cultural heritage and natural environment of the country.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Every year, the World Heritage Week is celebrated in the premises of various protected monuments, including those which are in the World Heritage list.

Merger of National Seeds Corporation with State Farms Corporation of India

*229. DR. JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN:
SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss sustained by the National Seeds Corporation;

(b) the reasons for the losses;

(c) whether functions/objectives of the State Farms Corporation overlap with the National Seeds Corporation;

(d) whether Government propose to merge National Seeds Corporation with State Farms Corporation of India to make it a viable unit; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what other package programmes are being contemplated in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) The accumulated loss of the National Seeds Corporation as on 31st March, 1991 was Rs 2450.91 lakhs.

(b) It has been found that losses are because of:—

(i) Increase in input prices and procurement prices paid to the seed growers without corresponding increase in the sale price of seed;

(ii) Increase in fixed overhead expenses on account of allowances of the staff of the Corporation as per recommendations of High Powered Pay Committee (HPCC);

(iii) Heavy interest burden;

(iv) Under utilisation of infrastructural facilities created under National Seeds Project Phase-I & II due to cut-back in production;

(v) Reduction in marketing segment of NSC due to competition from State Seeds Corporation (SSCs) and private seed industry; and

(vi) Excess staff.

(c) Although both National Seeds Corporation and State Farms Corporation of India are engaged in production of foundation seed and certified seed, several of their functions are different from each other. SFCI is producing seeds at its own Farms and is also undertaking horticultural

activities under Elite Progeny Scheme at its Farms. It is also undertaking other farm related activities such as fisheries, piggery, duckery and raising of plantation crops. NSC is mainly getting foundation seed and certified seed produced through contract growers. It is also undertaking activities relating to imparting training in seed production processing, certification and marketing technology for the candidates coming from national and international field.

(d) No such proposal is with the Government at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Revision of Tariff on Foreign Postal Articles

*230. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently revised the tariff on foreign postal articles;

(b) if so what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government are contemplating to improve the deteriorating Postal System in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The foreign postal rates (except those for Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh) have been revised with effect from 1-11-91. The percentage increase generally ranges from 22 per cent to 60 per cent. For Bhutan, Nepal and Bangladesh there is no change and the existing rates continue.

There are variable rates for Pakistan, Asian Pacific Postal Union (APPU) Member Countries (Australia. China (Peoples Republic), Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Japan, Laos (PDR), Malaysia, New Zealand, Phillipines, Papua New Guinea, Singapore, Maldives, Nauru (Republic), Thailand and Sri Lanka and all other foreign countries.

The revised rates are as follows:

	A.P.P.U. Countries		Pakistan		Other Foreign Countries (UPU)	
	Pre-revised rates	Revised rates	Pre-revised rates	Revised rates	Pre-revised rates	Revised rates
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Aerogrammes . . .	5·00	6·50	3·00	5·00	5·00	6·5
Airmail Postcards . .	4·00	6·00	2·50	4·00	4·00	6·00
Single Postcard by surface mail	3·00	4·00	1·50	2·00	3·50	5·00
Letters upto 20 grams by surface mail . . .	4·50	7·00	2·50	6·00	5·00	8·00
Letters upto 20 grams by Air (Including air surcharge) .	6·50	11·00	4·00	8·00	6·50	11·00